

**GODMANCHESTER**  
**Urban District Council.**

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**REPORT**

UPON THE SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

**Borough of Godmanchester**

FOR THE YEAR 1910,

BY

**HERBERT LUCAS, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.**


**Medical Officer of Health.**

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TO THE  
GODMANCHESTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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GENTLEMEN,

Godmanchester is a Borough situate on the south side of the river Ouse, with an area of 4,659 acres. The Borough proper is located on the banks of the river, with many straggling streets and lanes, and spreading over a considerable acreage, flanked on the East and West by extensive commons, which are at times flooded.

The rising ground on the southern side of the Borough is dotted with farm-houses and homesteads. The soil of the Borough proper is gravel, and that of the higher ground Oxford Clay.

It is a purely agricultural district with a tendency to fall in the matter of population. A Flour Mill is the only manufactory of any size in the Borough.

House accommodation for the labouring classes is of a mixed character. The old thatched cottages are gradually being re-placed by more modern dwelling-houses, and the house accommodation is generally improving. There is plenty of open space about the houses, the cleanliness of the surroundings in some places is not of a high class, the yards being imperfectly paved and gravelled. The gravelling of the yards is still far from what it ought to be.

At the present time there are no Bye-laws compelling people to submit plans to your Surveyor before building new dwelling-houses.

### **Water Supply.**

Water is obtained from shallow wells sunk in the gravel of the Ouse valley; this is liable to pollution. Notices have been posted on all the pumps advising the inhabitants to boil their water before using it for drinking purposes.

### **Milk Supply.**

The milk supplied is wholesome, the Dairies and Cow-sheds are generally in good condition, and there are many acres of commons and grazing land which is conducive to the healthiness of the cows. I can hear of no cases of Tuberculosis amongst the Cows in the District.

### **Food Supply.**

Two samples of Milk were sent for analysis and both found to be genuine.

No Carcases were condemned for Tuberculosis.

### **Sewers and Sewerage.**

There is a complete system of sewerage and drainage. The sewers discharge into two brooks which coalesce at a distance of from 400 to 500 yards, and form one stream which empties itself into the Hemingford head of the river Ouse, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles distant.

Very little fœcal matter passes through the sewers as the pail system is almost universally adopted.

The sewers are well flushed with water from the river from the Godmanchester head, and by means of water pumped into a tank at the upper end of the system by a ram at the old water mill, which supplies the motive power. The

old brick sewers are being re-placed by sanitary pipes from time to time.

The pail system is adopted for the removal of excrement which is carted out of the Borough in your own carts and by your own men, and disposed of in a field far removed from any possible risk of well pollution. House refuse is also removed in the same way and placed in the same field, except when occupiers choose to cart it to their own fields or allotments outside the Borough proper. The removal of house refuse is much facilitated by the use of sanitary dustbins which are being generally adopted. The refuse is removed once a week or oftener if required.

**Two registered Lodging Houses, Slaughter Houses, Bakehouses (all above ground), Dairies, Cowsheds, Milk-Shops and Factories** (of which only one now exists, a Flour Mill) are regularly visited by the Inspector, who also periodically inspects the Schools.

#### **Schools.**

The Schools are in good sanitary condition and water is supplied to the children from wells adjacent.

Medical Inspection of School Children is carried out under my supervision.

#### **Abatement of Nuisances.**

Your Surveyor gives notice as to the abatement of nuisances and if not attended to reports to your Authority.

#### **Isolation Hospital.**

No Isolation Hospital has been provided. I hope your Authority may see your way to make arrangements for the treatment of Infectious Diseases at the Huntingdon Isolation

Hospital. Two Third Class Carriages have been secured for the reception of cases of Small Pox, and placed in a very suitable situation.

### **Disinfection.**

Disinfection is carried out by your Inspector principally by means of the Formic Aldehyde Lamp.

### **Inspections.**

In December last I made a systematic Inspection of the whole district, accompanied by your Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances. I have made other Inspections when diseases or nuisances existed to which my attention had been called. Your Inspector has ordered all insanitary conditions existing to be remedied, and has seen that his instructions are carried out.

### **Births and Deaths.**

During the year the births of 49 children have been registered, 25 males and 24 females. An average of 24·3 per 1000 persons living.

The deaths of 24 persons residing in the Borough, and of five persons belonging to the district, four in the County Hospital, and one in the Union Workhouse, Huntingdon, make a total of 29, an average of 14·3 per 1000 persons living. Of these deaths 8 were over 70 years of age of these two were over 80 and one over 90.

### **Infantile Mortality.**

Five children died under one year of age. The Notification of Birth Acts is not in force.

### **Prevalence of Infectious Disease.**

Four cases of Infectious Disease have been notified during the year, one of Diphtheria, and three of Scarlet Fever.

#### **Scarlet Fever.**

Three cases of Scarlet Fever occurred all in adults, and probably contracted in Huntingdon.

#### **Diphtheria.**

One case of Diphtheria was notified in a child  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years of age which proved fatal, insanitary conditions existed which were rectified.

#### **Small Pox and Vaccination.**

No case of Small Pox was notified. Vaccination Exemption Orders are rapidly on the increase. I hope soon Re-Vaccination will be made compulsory, as in the absence of Small Pox the necessity for Re-Vaccination is lost sight of. In the event of an outbreak of Small Pox, I fear the consequences would be very serious owing to the neglect of Vaccination.

### **Diseases of Respiratory Organs.**

Three deaths from diseases of Respiratory Organs were registered; Two of Bronchitis in children and one of Pneumonia in an adult, making an average of 1·4 per 1000 persons living.

#### **Phthisis.**

Six deaths from Phthisis or other tubercular diseases occurred, average rate 2·9 per 1000 persons living. Phthisis should be added to the list of compulsory notifiable diseases so that directions might be given as to the disposal of the

sputum, and that houses might be disinfected after the removal or death of the patients. Disinfection is carried out where practicable.

### **Cancer.**

Three deaths from Cancer were registered during the year, making an average death rate of 1·4 per 1000 persons living.

### **Mortuary.**

A public Mortuary exists.

I append Table 1, Vital Statistics of the whole District and previous years.

Table 3, of Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

Table 4, Causes of, and ages at death during the year.

Table 5, Infantile Mortality during the year.

The Factory and Workshops Report.

And the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your faithful Servant,

HERBERT LUCAS,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

*Godmanchester Urban District Council.*

HUNTINGDON,

*February 6th, 1911.*

TABLE 1 - GODMANCHESTER URBAN DISTRICT

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non- Residents registered in Public Institutions in the District	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		Number	Rate.*	At all Ages			Number				Rate.*	
				Under 1 year of Age.		Rate.*						
				Number.	Rate per 1000 Births Registered.							
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9	10.	11.	12.	13.
1900	2095	62	29.5	17	274.1	39	18.6			8	47	22.4
1901	2017	56	27.7	5	89.2	26	12.8			3	29	14.3
1902	2017	53	26.2	7	132.0	34	16.8			3	37	18.3
1903	2017	57	28.2	6	105.2	29	14.3			3	32	15.9
1904	2017	54	26.7	3	55.5	29	14.3			2	31	15.3
1905	2017	61	30.2	11	180.3	34	16.8			1	34	16.8
1906	2017	52	25.7	10	192.3	37	18.3			10	47	23.3
1907	2017	51	25.2	2	39.2	32	15.8			4	36	17.8
1908	2017	49	24.2	3	55.5	21	10.6			5	26	12.3
1909	2017	42	20.8	3	71.4	28	13.3			5	33	16.3
Averages for years 1900-1909.	2024.8	53.7	26.4	6.7	119.4	30.9	15.1			4.4	35.2	17.2
1910	2017	49	24.3	5	89.2	24	11.0			5	29	14.3

\* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated Population.

Total population at all ages ... 2017

Number of inhabited houses ... 500

Average number of persons per house ... 3.8

Area of District in Acres }  
(exclusive of area }  
covered by water)

At Census of 1901.

Public Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District :—Addenbrooke Hospital, Cambridge, Huntingdon Union Workhouse, Huntingdon County Hospital, Three Counties Asylum, Arlesey.

TABLE III.—Godmanchester Urban District.

*Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year 1910.*

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN ALL DISTRICTS.						
	At Ages †—Years.						
	At all Ages.	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and up- wards
Small Pox .....							
Cholera .....							
Diphtheria .....	1		1				
Membranous Croup ...							
Erysipelas .....							
Scarlet Fever .....	3				3		
Typhus Fever.....							
Enteric Fever.....							
Relapsing Fever.....							
Continued Fever .....							
Puerperal Fever.....							
Plague .....							
TOTALS.....	4		1		3		

NO ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

**TABLE IV.—Godmanchester Urban District.***Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1910.*

CAUSE OF DEATHS.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "residents" whether occurring in or beyond the district.						
	All Ages.	Under 1 Year	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up- wards.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Diarrhœa .....							
Scarlet Fever .....	1				1		
Diphtheria .....	1		1				
Phthisis and Other tuber- cular diseases .....	6	1	1	1	2	1	
Epidemic Influenza.....	1						1
Other Septic disease							
Cancer, malignant disease	3					1	2
Bronchitis.....	2	2					
Pneumonia .....	1					1	
Laryngitis .. ...	1	1					
Alcoholism and Cirrhosis Liver .....	1						1
Heart Diseases.....	2						2
Accidents .....	1			1			
Suicides.....	2					2	
All other causes .....	7	1				1	5
All Causes.....	29	5	2	2	3	6	11



**Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1910.  
for the Urban District of Godmanchester.**

on the administration of the factory and Workshop Act, 1901,  
in connection with

**Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces, & Homework.**

**1.—INSPECTIONS.**

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors  
of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions.
Factories ... .. (including Factory Laundries)	3	Nil.	Nil.
Workshops ... .. (including Workshop Laundries)	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Workplaces ... ..		Nil.	Nil.
Homeworkers' Premises ...	Nil.		
Total ... ..	3	—	—

**2.—DEFECTS FOUND.**

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			
	Found.	Remedied.	Referee to H. M. Inspector	Number of Prosecutions.
	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

3. Home work.—Nil.

4. Registered Workshops & Bakehouses.—4.

5. Other Matters.—Nil.

**Ten Years Fatal Cases of:**

Year.	Cancer.	Phthisis & Tubercular Disease.
1901	3	4
1902	4	4
1903	2	4
1904	3	5
1905	4	4
1906	2	4
1907	3	2
1908	0	0
1909	3	2
1910	3	6
	27	35

**GODMANCHESTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

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**Report of Inspector of Nuisances, 1910.**

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During the year several Inspections of the District have been made.

**Public Sewers.**

140 yards of 18in. Outfall sewers have been laid, and 120 yards of 15in. sewers have been laid in East Street.

No Statutory Notices have been served, and defects have been remedied at the request of the Inspector.

**Overcrowding.**

Two cases of Overcrowding have been remedied and three other cases have been investigated, where the accommodation was found sufficient.

**Drainage.**

The drains of one house have been entirely relaid, and the drains of 14 houses have been repaired.

**Disinfection.**

Seven houses have been disinfected after cases of disease.

**Cowsheds.**

One model Cowshed has been built, and five others have had defects remedied. The Lime-washing of Cowsheds has been generally well carried out.

**Slaughter Houses.**

There is only one slaughter-house in the town, and that has been kept in a good condition.

**Paving.**

During the year the paving of the yards of 22 houses have been repaired.

**Lodging Houses and Schools.**

The Lodging house and Schools have been regularly inspected.

C. MAYFIELD,

*Inspector.*

